**MAKING SENSE OF THE CRANIAL NERVES**

When we set out to learn about the cranial nerves, there are a few categories we need to associate with each other to keep things straight: The **Name** and **Function** of the nerves are the most important, and the **Origin** is also very helpful to localize nerve-specific pathogenesis. Here’s a set of acronyms to help you remember all three categories. Feel free to modify them to anything that helps jog your memory. After you’ve memorized them, write all 3 letters side by side to get the big picture. It would be helpful to write all 3 lists of letters down at the beginning of a test to help keep things straight, for example.

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| **NERVES** | **NAME ACRONYM** | **FUNCTION ACRONYM** | **ORIGIN ACRONYM** |
| I – **Olfactory**  Function: Sensory  Origin:Olfactory Cortex | On | Some | Oh |
| II – **Optic**  Function: Sensory  Origin:Optic Tract | Occasion | Say | Oh! |
| III – **Oculomotor**  Function: Motor  Origin:Midbrain | Our | Marry | My |
| IV – **Trochlear**  Function: Motor  Origin:Midbrain | Trusty | Money, | My! |
| V – **Trigeminal**  Both (Sensory & Motor)  Origin:Pons | Truck | But | Poor |
| VI – **Abducens**  Function: Motor  Origin:Pons | Acts | My | Paul |
| VII – **Facial**  Function: Both (Sensory & Motor)  Origin:Pons | Funny. | Brother | Perceives |
| VIII – **Vestibulocochlear**  Function: Sensory  Origin:Pons | Very | Says | Pain! |
| IX – **Glossopharyngeal**  Function: Both (Sensory & Motor)  Origin:Medulla | Good | Big | MD |
| X – **Vagus**  Both (Sensory & Motor)  Origin:Medulla | Vehicle | Boobs | May |
| XI – **Accessory**  Function: Motor  Origin:Medulla | Any | Matter | Merely |
| XII – **Hypoglossal**  Function: Motor  Origin:Medulla | How | Most | Medicate |